

**CONFIDENTIAL**

July 12, 1989

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Dear Kenichi,

I am just back from the HUGO meeting in Moscow, stopping off in England for three days to discuss genome matters in London, Cambridge, and Norwich. In London, I received the good news that the Wellcome Trust will consider a request from HUGO for 300,000 pounds (\$500,000) over three years to make possible the appointment of a Secretary General, the key person who will coordinate the activities of the various HUGO offices. They also talked about the possibilities of locating the European HUGO office in their new headquarters near Euston Station, to which they will move in approximately two years. The Wellcome Trust will have assets ( six billion dollars) equivalent to those of the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and their new headquarters, with conference rooms, etc. could be a superb site for HUGO activities. Further support of \$100,000 yearly is likely to come from the Russian Human Genome Effort. Equally important Jean Dausset and Francois Gros have directly talked to Mitterand and I believe we can count on a real French contribution.

In the States, Hughes is considering a request from HUGO for \$1,500,000 over three years to help support the Bethesda office which initially will focus on the worldwide distribution of the various databases, as well as the sponsoring of chromosome specific meetings, that bring together the genetic and physical mappers. It is our hope to have this office, to be located in the Hughes building on the NIH campus in operation by the mid-fall with a staff of at least two senior people.

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Now I, of course, am anxious to learn whether your country also will be a real member providing financial support commensurate with Japan's stature as a great nation. A sum of 300,000 dollars per year contributed to the operation of the Secretary General, would be the appropriate sum. Anything less would imply a half-hearted commitment, and could be a continuing source of ill-will and resentment. This is an opportunity for Japan to play a major role in what will be one of the great achievements of modern science. If Japan fails to enter fully into this enterprise, it will be a very public demonstration that Japan does not want to mount a serious mapping and sequencing effort ~~program on human DNA despite its formidable record for exploiting discoveries made by other countries.~~ (Frankly, I do not see how Japan can expect to benefit from the genome efforts of other countries if Japan itself does not contribute in full.

Whether Japan will make such a commitment, seems to me purely a Japanese matter. Upon reflection, I now believe it would be counterproductive for me to come to Japan next November to speak to your government science policy makers, either about your own national genome effort or about your potential contribution to HUGO. Japan has to make up its own mind if visits from outsiders are not to be a waste of time for all concerned.

Of course, I would be pleased to receive any Japanese policy making delegation which wanted to talk to me at NIH.

If you decide to become a real player on the HUGO scene, I would be pleased to come to Japan to talk about concrete plans for a coordinated effort.

Yours sincerely,

James D. Watson  
Director

JDW/as